

Message Text

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DEPT PASS TO AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION

FOR DIRECTOR KEOGH FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, MX

SUBJECT: THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN AND JEFFERSON

REF: USIA 12494

1. AT SUGGESTION OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LATIN AMERICAN AREA OFFICE, I MADE EXTENSIVE VISIT TO EXHIBIT AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM ACCOMPANIED BY ARBA OFFICIALS BLUE AND MASEY. IT IS INDEED A BREATH-TAKING EXHIBIT AND I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY IT HAS HAD SUCH SUCCESS IN PARIS, WARSAW, AND LONDON. WHEN I WAS IN LONDON, EMBASSY SPOKE IN HIGHEST TERMS OF ITS IMPACT THERE AND OF PRESTIGE STATUS THAT IT GAVE TO BOTH EMBASSY AND USIS ACTIVITIES IN OTHER FIELDS WHICH PAID BIG RETURNS ON THE WORK AND EXPENSE WHICH WERE ADMITTEDLY INVOLVED. AFTER VISITING THE EXHIBIT AND HEARING LONDON'S OPINIONS I AM MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED OF THE CONTRIBUTION THIS MAJOR EXHIBIT CAN MAKE IN MEXICO IN CONMEMORATING OUR BICENTENNIAL, EVEN THOUGH IT WILL NOT BE SHOWN HERE UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1977.

2. AT SAME TIME I AM QUICK TO RECOGNIZE THAT SOME OF USIA'S WORDS OF CAUTION ARE WELL FOUNDED PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE TEXT OF THE WRITTEN MATERIAL IN REGARD TO US WESTWARD EXPANSION. THIS ASPECT OF THE EXHIBIT WILL REQUIRE RE-

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EDITING THROUGH OMITTING CERTAIN STATEMENTS, AND CHANGING

EMPHASIS OF OTHERS IN ORDER TO DECREASE CHANCES OF GIVING OFFENSE REGARDING SUBSEQUENT MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR. I AM CONVINCED IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SUCH-RE-EDITING AND ARBA OFFICIALS HAVE ASSURED ME OF THEIR FULL COOPERATION IN RE-CASTING THAT PORTION OF EXHIBIT IN ANY WAY WE RECOMMEND. IN FACT, THEY ARE PREPARING TO SEND PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL WRITTEN TEXTS OF THE EXHIBIT SOONEST IN ORDER THAT WE CAN COMMENCE A REVIEW OF CONTENT HERE. THE EXHIBIT OF COURSE WILL ALSO BE EXPANDED GREATLY TO GIVE EMPHASIS TO THE HISPANIC CONTRIBUTION TO OUR WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, AND TO THE ROLES OF GENERAL GALVEZ (WHO REMODELED CHAPULTEPEC AND LIVED THERE AS VICEROY); OF FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA, THE PRECURSOR OF BOLIVAR, OF JUAN DE MIRALLES, "THE CUBAN FRIEND OF WASHINGTON", WHO WAS THE FIRST SPANISH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, ETC., ETC. IN FACT, THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF EXHIBIT WILL BE PLAYED DOWN AND THE POSITIVE ASPECTS (ALONG LINES OF RECENT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SYMPOSIUM ON THE "AMERICAN REVOLUTION AS SEEN FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDERLANDS") CAN BE PLAYED UP MOST CONSTRUCTIVELY. IN FACT, I HAVE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO ARBA THAT THIS RE-CASTING TAKE PLACE FOR THE SHOWING OF THE EXHIBIT IN LOS ANGELES IN VIEW OF THE LARGE HISPANIC POPULATION THERE.

3. OTHER CAUTIONARY WARNINGS RAISED BY USIA' LATIN AMERICAN AREA OFFICE CAN BE TAKEN IN STRIDE. FOR INSTANCE, "PANOPLIES" OF ARMS ARE TYPICAL DECORATIVE ITEMS OF THE PERIOD AND WILL NOT GIVE OFFENSE, AND "SLOGANS", ALL DRAWN FROM THE WRITINGS OF EITHER JEFFERSON OR FRANKLIN, CAN BE MORE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS SUCH. THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE SLOGANS MAY SEEM INCENDIARY IS A FACT OF LIFE AND MAY SERVE AS A USEFUL REMINDER OF OUR OWN REVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS. WE HAVE NOT, AFTER ALL, HESITATED TO GIVE DISTRIBUTION TO THE TEXT OF OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT IS NOT EXACTLY A TAME DOCUMENT. IN ANY CASE THE "SLOGANS" COULD ALSO BE REVIEWED FOR CONTENT AND CHOICE.

4. THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE EXHIBIT IN THE MEXICAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM, LOCATED IN CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE, WAS AGREED TO BETWEEN KEY MEXICAN HISTORY AND MUSEUM OFFICIALS AND ARBA REPRESENTATIVES. EAMES ON A SUBSEQUENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISIT HERE FOUND CHAPULTEPEC IDEALLY SUITED BOTH BECAUSE OF ITS ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES AND ITS DIRECT CONNECTION WITH GALVEZ ASSOCIATIONS. THE QUESTION OF THE PRECISE LOCATION, HOWEVER, CAN BE REVIEWED AGAIN BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT WITH PROPER EDITING THE EXHIBIT WILL MAKE A LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEXICAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM'S OWN ACTIVITIES.

5. I HOPE THAT THE LENGTH OF THIS MESSAGE AND MY OWN PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT WILL CONVINCING YOU THAT THE AGENCY'S LEGITIMATE CONCERNS ARE BEING TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT. I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER THAT AT THIS LATE DATE THERE ARE STILL NO FIRM PLANS FOR USIA PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT AND NO USIA-ARBA AGREEMENT YET SIGNED. I SOLICIT YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST AND SUPPORT TO INSURE THAT THE EXHIBIT WILL COME TO MEXICO AND THAT IT WILL HAVE THE WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF USIA. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT AGREEMENT BE REACHED BETWEEN ARBA AND USIA AT THE EARLIEST MOMENT SO THAT WE MAY WORK CLOSELY WITH THE MEXICANS INFORMING AND COLLECTING MATERIALS FOR THE HISPANIC SECTION AS WELL AS MANY OTHER DETAILS. THIS IS A MAJOR PROJECT-- IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN UP A LOT OF OUR TIME, THOUGHT AND EFFORT(MY OWN INCLUDED). ALL LATIN AMERICANS WILL FEEL FLATTERED THAT THIS MAJOR EXHIBIT HAS NOT BEEN LIMITED TO THE PARIS-LONDON CIRCUIT BUT IS ALSO BEING SHOWN IN AT LEAST ONE LATIN AMERICAN CITY, AND THE FACT THAT THIS WILL BE MEXICO CANNOT HELP BUT PLEASE OUR HOSTS.
JOVA

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